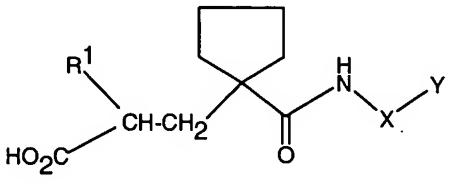
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. - 24. (Previously Cancelled)

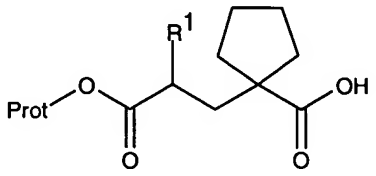
25. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of general formula I



(I)

wherein R^1, X and Y are as defined below comprising the steps of:

a) reacting a compound of formula II

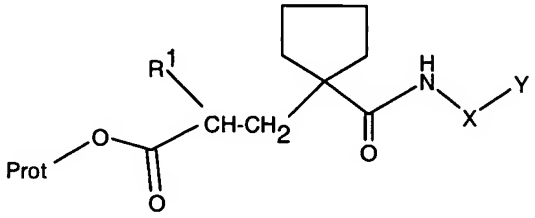


(II)

wherein Prot is a suitable protecting group, with a compound of formula III

$$Y\text{-}X\text{-}NH_2 \qquad (III)$$

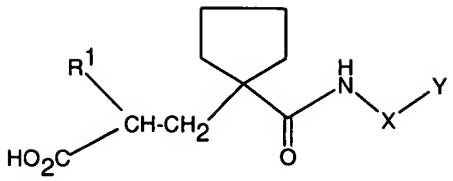
to give a compound of formula IV;



(IV) ;

then

b) reacting compound of formula IV under suitable deprotecting conditions to give the compound of formula I



(I)

wherein

R^1 is C_{1-6}alkyl which may be substituted by one or more substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from the list: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, carbocyclyl, carbocyclyloxy, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbocyclyloxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyloxy, $-NR^2R^3$, $-NR^4COR^5$, $-NR^4SO_2R^5$, $-CONR^2R^3$, $-S(O)_pR^6$, $-COR^7$ and $-CO_2(C_{1-4}alkyl)$; or R^1 is carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl, each of which may be substituted by one or more substituents from said list, which substituents may be the same or different, which list further includes C_{1-6}alkyl; or R^1 is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-NR^2R^3$ or $-NR^4SO_2R^5$;

wherein

R^2 and R^3, which may be the same or different, are carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl (each of which may be substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl, hydroxy or C_{1-4}alkoxy); or are hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl; or R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino, piperazinyl or *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)piperazinyl group;

R^4 is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^5 is C_{1-4}alkyl, CF_3, carbocyclyl, C_{1-4}alkylcarbocyclyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or $-NR^2R^3$;

R^6 is C_{1-4}alkyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl or NR^2R^3; and

R^7 is C_{1-4}alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl;

p is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

X is the linkage $-(CH_2)_n-$ or $-(CH_2)_q-O-$ (wherein Y is attached to the oxygen); wherein one or more hydrogen atoms in linkage X may be replaced

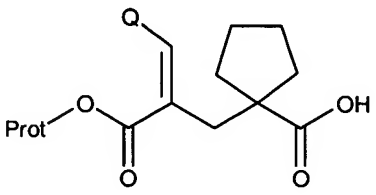
independently by C_{1-4}alkoxy; hydroxy; hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl; C_{3-7}cycloalkyl; carbocyclyl; heterocyclyl; or by C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted by one or more fluoro or phenyl groups; n is 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7; and q is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and

Y is phenyl or pyridyl, each of which may be substituted by one or more groups R^8 which may be the same or different, wherein R^8 is hydroxy; mercapto; halogen; cyano; acyl; amino; mono(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino; di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino; carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl (either of which is optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl, haloC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, haloC_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio or halogen); C_{1-6}alkoxy; phenoxy; C_{1-6}alkylthio; phenylthio; or alkyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkoxy, haloC_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio, halogen or phenyl; or

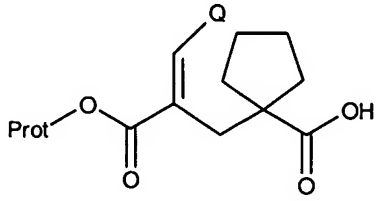
two R^8 groups on adjacent carbon atoms together with the interconnecting carbon atoms may form a fused 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclyic ring, optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl, haloC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, haloC_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio or halogen; then

c) optionally forming a salt.

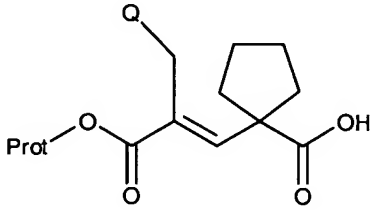
26. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 25 further comprising asymmetric hydrogenation of any one of compounds of formula XI, XII or XIII



(XI)

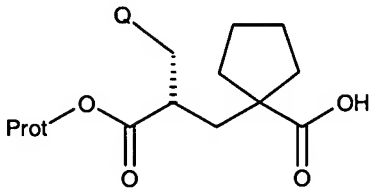


(XII)



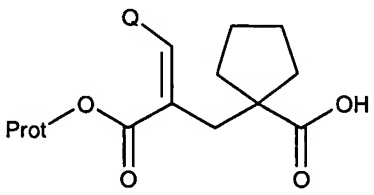
(XIII)

where Q is the substituent on the C_{1-6}alkyl group defined for R^1 in claim 25, to give a compound of formula IIa

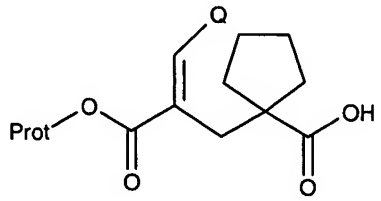


(IIa)

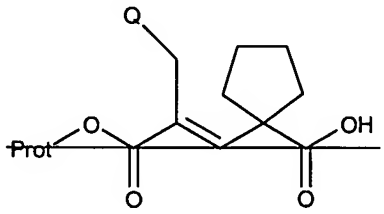
27. (Currently amended) A process comprising asymmetric hydrogenation of any one of compounds of formula XI~~,~~ or XII ~~or XIII~~



(XI)



(XII)



(XIII)

where Q is halo, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, carbocyclyl, carbocyclyloxy, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbocyclyloxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyloxy, $-NR^2R^3$, $-NR^4COR^5$, $-NR^4SO_2R^5$, $-CONR^2R^3$, $-S(O)_pR^6$, $-COR^7$ and $-CO_2(C_{1-4}$alkyl); wherein

R^2 and R^3, which may be the same or different, are carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl (each of which may be substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl, hydroxy or C_{1-4}alkoxy); or are hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl; or R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino, piperazinyl or *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)piperazinyl group;

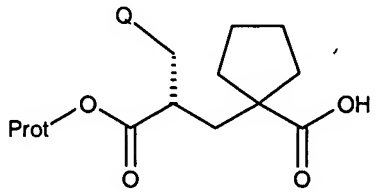
R^4 is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^5 is C_{1-4}alkyl, CF_3, carbocyclyl, C_{1-4}alkylcarbocyclyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or $-NR^2R^3$;

R^6 is C_{1-4}alkyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl or NR^2R^3; and

R^7 is C_{1-4}alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl;

and Prot is a suitable protecting group, to give a compound of formula IIa



(IIa)

28. (Previously Cancelled)